

disclose or suggest each and every element as required for a rejection under § 102 or § 103.

Graupe discloses a system for filtering noise from a signal. The system includes an input signal 11, which is applied in parallel to multiple bandpass filters 13-1-13-N (*Graupe*, col. 7, lines 43-45; Figure 4), which output signals to detectors 14-1-14-N, which output signals to threshold logic circuits 15-1-15-N (*id.*, col. 7, lines 45-52; Figure 4), which output signals to parameter storage means 17 (*id.*, col. 7, line 53-col. 8, line 23; Figure 4). The system further includes a notch filter 18-1 that receive as input the output from the parameter storage means (*id.*, col. 8, lines 24-33, Figure 4) and the original input signal (*id.*, col. 8, lines 27-33, Figure 4). According to the specification, notch filter 18-1 also may receive either a bypassed or filtered input. (*id.*, col. 8, lines 52-55.) Each successive notch filter 18B-18C receives as input the output from the parameter storage means (*id.*, col. 8, lines 24-33, Figure 4) as well as a bypassed signal and a filtered signal, which alternatively include an input signal, as input (*id.*, col. 8, lines 41-47, Figures 4; see *a/so* col. 8, lines 48-63; Figure 5). Further, a notch filter is defined as, "[a] band-elimination filter, sometimes used to eliminate a single frequency, for example, 60 Hz." IEEE DICTIONARY OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS TERMS 584 (1984). That is, the output of each notch filter, is either a filtered signal with a frequency band eliminated or a bypassed signal. Thus, *Graupe* discloses a system that outputs a signal that has been bypassed or that has had certain frequency bands eliminated.

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This is different from a combination of elements including, "a restoring device for restoring a level of said adjusted input signal to said level of said input signal that has not been adjusted by said adjusting device yet," as recited in claim 1.¹

The Examiner identified the filtered output in Figure 4 as an "adder" alleged to be identical to the restoring device recited in claim 1. (Paper No. 12 at 3.) Applicant respectfully disagrees. The specification of *Graupe* nowhere discloses that the filtered output is an "adder," nor is there a disclosure of a combination of elements including, "a restoring device for restoring a level of said adjusted input signal to said level of said input signal that has not been adjusted by said adjusting device yet," as recited in claim 1. As *Graupe* fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 1, *Graupe* cannot anticipate the claim. Claims 4–7 are likewise allowable over *Graupe* at least because of their dependence from claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 4–7.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Graupe* in view of *Strahm*. *Strahm* discloses an audio signal energy level detector. *Strahm* fails to disclose, however, "a restoring device for restoring a level of said adjusted input signal to said level of said input signal that has not been adjusted by said adjusting device yet," as recited in claim 1, from which claim 2 depends. Thus, *Strahm* fails to compensate for the deficiencies of *Graupe* and combination of the references cannot render the claim obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

¹ Applicant notes that *Graupe* discloses another embodiment, which likewise fails to disclose each and every element of the pending claims or compensate for the deficiencies of the embodiment discussed above. (See, e.g., *Graupe*, Figure 1.)

The Examiner also rejected claim 3 under § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Graupe* in view of *Ishida*. *Ishida* discloses a noise reduction apparatus, but fails to disclose, “a restoring device for restoring a level of said adjusted input signal to said level of said input signal that has not been adjusted by said adjusting device yet,” as recited in claim 1, from which claim 3 depends. Thus, *Ishida* fails to compensate for the deficiencies of *Graupe* and combination of the references cannot render the claim obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also rejected claim 8 under § 102(b) as anticipated by *Graupe*. But lacking from the disclosure of *Graupe*, as discussed above, claim 8 recites a combination of elements including, “restoring a level of said adjusted input signal to said level of said input signal that has not been adjusted in said adjusting process yet.” As *Graupe* fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 8, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection. Claims 10–12 are likewise allowable over *Graupe* at least because of their dependence from claim 8.

The Examiner also rejected claim 9 under § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Graupe* in view of *Strahm*. As noted above, *Strahm* discloses an audio signal energy level detector but fails to disclose, “restoring a level of said adjusted input signal to said level of said input signal that has not been adjusted in said adjusting process yet,” as recited in claim 8, from which claim 9 depends. Thus, *Strahm* fails to compensate for the deficiencies of *Graupe* and combination of the references cannot render the claim obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims.

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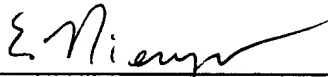
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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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